

Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, CH, US

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER 3
PRESS CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S NOVEMBER 3
PRESS CONFERENCE APPEAR IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY WERE
DELIVERED. NEW PARAGRAPHS INDICATE THAT INTERVENING
MATERIAL HAS BEEN DELETED.

OPENING STATEMENT
(MATERIAL DELETED)

1. FOR THE PAST YEAR GEORGE BUSH HAS BEEN US
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. HE HAS
SERVED WITH GREAT SKILL AS A CONGRESSMAN AND AS AMBASSADOR
TO THE UNITED NATIONS. IT IS MY INTENTION TO NOMINATE
AMBASSADOR BUSH TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
AGENCY. THE C.I.A. IS ONE OF OUR NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT
INSTITUTIONS. IN RECENT MONTHS IT HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF
SOME CONTROVERSY. DURING THIS DIFFICULT PERIOD, BILL
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COLBY, AS DIRECTOR OF THE C.I.A., HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING

JOB OF WORKING WITH THE CONGRESS TO LOOK INTO AND TO
CORRECT ANY ABUSES THAT MAY HAVE OCCURRED IN THE PAST

WHILE MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE
CAPABILITY.

2. Q. MR. PRESIDENT, WE'RE TOLD THAT NOT ONLY HAVE
THERE BEEN PERSONNEL CHANGES IN THE AREA OF FOREIGN
POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS BUT THAT THE
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS HAS BEEN ALTERED AS WELL, THAT
SECRETARY KISSINGER NOW WILL HAVE TO SHARE ACCESS TO YOU
ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH THE NEW DEFENSE SECRETARY AND
WITH MR. BUSH OF C.I.A. THIS LEAVES A VERY STRONG IM-
PRESSION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S INFLUENCE IN BOTH
THESE FIELDS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. IS THAT A
CORRECT IMPRESSION?

A. LET ME STATE IT FORMATIVELY, THAT SECRETARY
KISSINGER HAS DONE A SUPERB JOB AS SECRETARY OF STATE
AS MY ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS. HE WILL
CONTINUE TO HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A FOREIGN
POLICY WHICH I THINK HAS BEEN NOT ONLY SUCCESSFUL BUT IN
THE BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES.

THERE WILL BE ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES AS I HAVE INDICATED
AND THERE WILL BE CLOSER LIAISON AND COOPERATION AS IS
NECESSARY AS WE MOVE AHEAD. BUT SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL
HAVE THE DOMINANT ROLE IN THE FORMULATION OF AND THE
CARRYING OUT OF FOREIGN POLICY.

3. ONE OTHER QUESTION ON THE VICE PRESIDENTIAL RACE.
DOES THE NOMINATION OF DONALD RUMSFELD AS DEFENSE
SECRETARY AND THE NOMINATION OF MR. BUSH AS C.I.A.
DIRECTOR--DOES THAT ELIMINATE THEM AS VICE PRESIDENTIAL
RUNNING-MATE POSSIBILITIES?

A. THEY ARE FIRST-CLASS PUBLIC OFFICIALS, THEY HAVE
IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE
ELIMINATED FROM CONSIDERATION BY ANYBODY. THE DELEGATES
TO THE CONVENTION OR MYSELF.

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Q: COULD YOU BE MORE SPECIFIC AND TELL US EXACTLY
HOW THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. RUMSFELD AND MR. BUSH TO THEIR
NEW POSTS WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR TEAM IN THE AREA OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS?

A: WELL, I'VE INDICATED THAT SECRETARY BUSH...
AMBASSADOR BUSH HAD BEEN AN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED

NATIONS FOR TWO YEARS, HE'S BEEN IN CHINA BETTER THAN A YEAR, HE'S A MAN OF EXPERIENCE IN PUBLIC LIFE AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND DON RUMSFELD HAS HAD EXCELLENT SERVICE IN THE CONGRESS. HE HAS BEEN IN THE WHITE HOUSE FOR 14 MONTHS, HE WAS IN NATO . . . DON RUMSFELD HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND THE KIND OF WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH ME THAT I THINK WILL BE VERY HELPFUL.

Q: DOES THIS HAVE ANY SPECIFIC IMPLICATION FOR POLICY?

A: I HAVE INDICATED THAT IN MY JUDGMENT WE HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THE EXECUTION OF FOREIGN POLICY ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE ACHIEVED GREAT SUCCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE'VE STRENGTHENED NATO, WE'VE CONTINUED RELATIONS ON A GOOD BASIS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN CERTAIN AREAS TO RELIEVE TENSION, SO THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THIS COUNTRY IS IN GOOD HANDS. BUT I WANTED A TEAM THAT WAS MY TEAM AND THIS TEAM OF KISSINGER AND RUMSFELD, BUSH AND SCOWCROFT GIVES TO ME THE KIND OF TEAM THAT I THINK CAN CARRY OUT AND EXECUTE A CONTINUING FOREIGN POLICY.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT MY RECORD IN THE CONGRESS AND AS VICE PRESIDENT AND AS PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ONE OF STRENGTH IN NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS, IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT IN OUR ATTEMPTS TO EASE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES WE HAVE ACHIEVED A TWO-WAY STREET.

AND I BELIEVE THAT THE POLICY THAT I WILL FOLLOW, THE TEAM THAT I HAVE WILL CONTINUE THAT POLICY IN THE FUTURE.

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Q: MR. PRESIDENT, WOULD YOU EXPECT, SIR, THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY UNDER AMBASSADOR BUSH'S TENURE WOULD CONTINUE TO HAVE THE SAME RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION AS DURING MR. COLBY'S PERIOD IN OFFICE?

A: THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WILL CONTINUE ITS POLICY OF NOTIFYING THE RESPONSIBLE COMMITTEES IN THE CONGRESS AS TO DEVELOPMENTS. THEY'VE DONE IT IN THE PAST, THEY WILL CONTINUE IT IN THE FUTURE.

I CAN SEE NO CHANGE IN THE RELATIONS OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WITH THE CONGRESS UNDER MR. BUSH DIFFERENT FROM WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN UNDER MR. COLBY.

Q: WELL, SPECIFICALLY, AS THE CHURCH COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS INVESTIGATION, YOUR INSTRUCTIONS TO MR. BUSH WOULD BE TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THAT INVESTIGATION?

A: I HAVE GIVEN THAT WORD TO MR. COLBY. HE'S CARRIED IT OUT IN A VERY RESPONSIBLE WAY AND MR. BUSH WILL CONTINUE THAT POLICY.

4.Q:MR. PRESIDENT. WILL THESE CHANGES THAT YOU HAVE MADE, DO YOU FEEL, GIVE YOU ANY MORE DIRECTLY RESPONSIVE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THAN YOU HAVE HAD HITHERTO? IN OTHER WORDS, DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE--WITH PUTTING MR. BUSH AND MR. RUMSFELD IN THESE TWO IMPORTANT POSITIONS GIVE YOU A MORE DIRECT CONTROL OVER THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY THAN IT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY?

A: MR. BUSH AND DON RUMSFELD ARE LONG PERSONAL FRIENDS OF MINE. I HAVE KNOWN OF THEIR FINE RECORD. I HAVE AN EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM. I'M CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE VERY SIGNIFICANTLY.

AND THESE ARE MY GUYS THAT I WANTED, AND I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THEIR CONFIRMATION WILL BE QUICK IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

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Q: MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO FILL THE VACANCIES--THE AMBASSADORSHIP VACANCIES IN LONDON AND IN PEKING--AND DO YOU PLAN ANY FURTHER CHANGES IN YOUR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE?

A: WE HAVE NOT ADDRESSED THE QUESTIONS OF REPLACEMENT FOR MR. BUSH OR MR. RICHARDSON, AND I HAVE NO SPECIFIC CHANGES IN MIND AT THE PRESIDENT FORD COMMITTEE. IN DUE TIME THERE WILL BE A PERSON TO SUCCEED DAVID PACKARD.

Q: THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES AT THE TOP, SIR?

A: I'VE INDICATED WHAT THE CHANGES ARE.

5. Q: MR. PRESIDENT, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE CHINA TRIP IS BEING REDUCED FROM A POSSIBLE FIVE OR SIX DAYS IN CHINA TO THREE OR POSSIBLY FOUR DAYS, IS THAT SO, AND IF SO, WHY?

A: FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, WE HAVE HAD TENTATIVE PLANS TO VISIT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, SECRETARY

OF STATE KISSINGER WAS THERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, THOSE TRIP PLANS ARE STILL ON AND THE LENGTH OF THE TRIP WILL BE DECIDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC. AND I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY SIGNIFICANCE IN THE AREAS THAT YOU'VE RAISED.

Q: MR. PRESIDENT, HASN'T THERE BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF DEBATE BETWEEN DR. KISSINGER, MR. RUMSFELD AND OTHERS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF ADDING STOPS TO THAT TRIP. AND HAVEN'T THE CHINESE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY HAPPY IF YOU DID ADD SOME STOPS TO THAT TRIP?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION IS NO.

Q: WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET AN ANNOUNCEMENT. . .
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Q: MR. PRESIDENT?

A: YES.

6. Q: MR. PRESIDENT, THERE ARE PERSISTENT REPORTS THAT HUGH SCOTT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO PEKING. CAN YOU SAY IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT HIM?

A: AS I SAID A MOMENT AGO, WE HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT REPLACEMENTS FOR GEORGE BUSH AND ELLIOT RICHARDSON. I CAN SAY THIS, THAT HUGH SCOTT IS A GREAT STUDENT OF CHINESE CULTURE AND HISTORY. HE'S BEEN TO CHINA ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS. BUT I HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS IN ON THE REPLACEMENT FOR MR. BUSH.

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